CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
SPECIAL MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2004

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Lavagnino called the Special Meeting of the City Council to order at 2:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL
MEMBERS PRESENT
Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, and Mayor Lavagnino.

MEMBERS ABSENT
Councilmember Trujillo

ALSO PRESENT
Assistant City Manager Haydon, Interim City Attorney Stockton, Director of Public Works Karp, Director of Utilities Chisam, and Chief Deputy City Clerk Perez.

CLOSED SESSION
The City Council recessed at 2:42 p.m. to a Closed Session for Conference with Legal Counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to Subsection (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9 to discuss Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District v. City of Santa Maria.

Mayor Lavagnino reconvened the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Interim City Attorney reported that in the Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), the City Council accepted a settlement agreement offer between the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District.

Mayor Lavagnino read the following statement:

"The City of Santa Maria and the Water Conservation District have adopted an agreement that ends litigation between these two public entities. The City and the District will no longer incur litigation costs against each other, as the major issues between the parties have been resolved.

This agreement acknowledges that the residents of the City of Santa Maria and the landowners within the District are beneficiaries of the water projects that they have funded and operated.

The City as the importer of State Water has a right to use water derived from the State Water project. Likewise the property owners within the District, including City residents, have a prior right to use groundwater derived from the Twitchell Project. In addition, the City and the District have agreed to form a Basin Management Committee to improve the groundwater supplies and provide a forum for resolving future issues."

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Cameron Miller, Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District Board Member, thanked the Council for the agreement. The last seven years have been difficult. In the whole scheme of the litigation, this is a small step. It took a lot of courage for this City to come to this agreement. The Board is looking forward to the District and the City having a new era of accommodation.

Mayor Lavagnino stated there had been no animosity between the District and the City during the litigation. This agreement is a large step in that it gives the District a catalyst to solve the problems in the Valley. The City appreciates the District's political courage in reaching this agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, the meeting was declared adjourned at 3:23 p.m. by order of Mayor Lavagnino.

APPROVED September 7, 2004
Date

Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Santa Maria and ex officio Clerk of the City Council

ATTEST:
Chief Deputy City Clerk

Mayor of the City of Santa Maria